

HOPE VALLEY/WYOMING FIRE DISTRICT

996 MAIN STREET

HOPE VALLEY, RI 02832

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 12, 2013

7:00 P.M.

Those present: Board Members: Chairman, David Holt, Ronald Richard, Elwood Johnson; Chief, Fred Stanley; Treasurer, Deborah Nicotra; Tax Collector; Susan Bok; District Clerk, Julie Kelley

Those not present: Auditor, Pete Stefanski; Board Members, Pasquale DeBernardo, Georgia Ure

The meeting commenced and was called to order by Chairman, David Holt at 7:00 p.m. with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

MINUTES

The previous minutes of the October 10th Monthly Board Meeting were accepted as amended. Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the minutes as corrected and Mr. Richard seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

The minutes of the November 14th Monthly Board Meeting were accepted as presented. Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Mr. Richard seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

The Tax Collector's report was presented for November 2013. Ms. Bok indicated that a total of \$596,281.85 has been collected to date. Mr. Richard motioned to accept the Tax Collector's Report as presented and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report for November 2013 was presented. The board reviewed the report. The board inquired about Mr. Pete Stefanski and whether they have heard anything regarding the audit. Ms. Nicotra informed the board that she heard Mr. Stefanski has been out of town quite a bit in the last month. The board discussed the automatic back up for the office computers. They discussed that Mr. Pat Webber was currently looking into this matter. Chief Stanley indicated that he would contact Mr. Webber and see where we are relative to this matter.

Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and Mr. Richard seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

CHIEF'S REPORT

The Chief's report was presented for November 2013. The board discussed the following points of interest:

The annual Christmas Party is to be held on Saturday, December 14th, at the Richmond Country Club at 6 p.m. There is also the annual Christmas Appreciation lunch for our officers and their guests on Friday, December 20th, at 12 Noon at the Richmond Country Club.

On January 27th, the RI Southern Firemen's League's annual Legislators Night will be held at the Richmond Country Club at 6 p.m. Enclosed within the packets are the legislators and state officials who are invited to attend this year.

Chief Stanley passed out information and maps regarding the Verizon Wireless proposal. He informed the board that he signed the papers to get permission to work with the town. Their Lawyer is supposed to contact our lawyer to

finalize things. The board reviewed the sketches. As reflected on the maps, Verizon will be providing their own Equipment shelter. Within that building they will be providing their own generator. Located within the area they will be providing their own 500 gallon Propane tank, and also provide underground utilities. Chief Stanley informed the board that he had no problems with the proposed plan. He did indicate that the only thing he could foresee are perhaps legal issues pertaining to their possible expansion and if the Fire District goes out of business in the future. The only other issue might be that the utility lines are pretty close to the brook and will be going right over our lines. It would be preferred to have the utilities going through the building. Chief Stanley will contact them regarding the areas of concern.

The board discussed the proposed Zone change for Megawatt Energy Solutions, LLC, located at 45 Bank Street, Hope Valley, RI. They are looking for a zone change from an RFR-80 rural, farming, residential zone to Commercial zoning. It was discussed that this would be a great opportunity for additional tax dollars. The property is elevated, so it is not in the Flood zone. It was also discussed that the current substation next to the Dow Baseball Field would be closing with a new proposed substation in Ashaway to be opened in proposed year 2017.

The Cumberland Fire Districts as well as the Lincoln Fire Districts are working on consolidation. There is still movement for consolidation in the Town of Westerly to consolidate the remaining four (4) fire districts.

Chief Stanley indicated that it is still very important to continue to watch for bills that get into the House committee and then very quickly pass in the Senate as did the amendment to RI General Laws § 42-46-7(b)(2), whereas, all volunteer fire companies, associations, fire district companies, or any other organizations currently engaged in the mission of extinguishing fires and preventing fire hazards, whether it is incorporated or not, and whether it is a paid department or not, shall post unofficial minutes of their meeting on the Secretary of State's website. It is important to stay abreast of any important amendments.

Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the Chief's Report for November 2013 and Mr. Richard seconded the motion. With no further discussion from the Chief's report, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

CORRESPONDENCE

Incoming:

1. Notice from Town Clerk's Office, Hopkinton, RI, Notice of Public Hearings Planning Board, regarding Megawatt Energy Solutions, LLC, 45 Bank Street, Hope Valley, RI AP28, Lot 122 for a change in zoning from RFR-80 to Commercial.
2. Verizon Wireless, Vicinity Map, located at Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, 996 Main Street, Hope Valley (Hopkinton), RI 02832, reflecting proposed equipment location and plans for their use for a cell tower.

Outgoing:

1. Letter addressed to Ms. Janet L. Coit, Director, Department of Environmental Management, from Frederick A. Stanley, Fire Chief, RI Southern Firemen's League, regarding Adequate staffing at Arcadia Forestry Headquarters.

PUBLIC FORUM

No Public forum this evening.

ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. by Mr. Richard and seconded by Mr. Johnson. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kelley
District Clerk